01 Introduction and Initial Camera Setup

Autumn Family Time © Matthew Drake Photography (*mecamerashy*)

Congratulations on your purchase of a Nikon D750 camera, one of the most exciting new Nikons released in several years! The D750 is a full-frame (FX), hybrid-digital, single-lens reflex (HD-SLR) camera in Nikon's line of advanced-enthusiast digital cameras. It has a newly designed imaging sensor with more dynamic range and image quality than ever before for a camera in its class.

With a camera body design and internal operating system based on the mature and stable Nikon D610 and many of the same internal hardware features as in the Nikon D810 and D4S—including the new, very powerful EXPEED 4 microprocessor system—the Nikon D750 is the ultimate advanced-enthusiast camera. It is an entry into the FX world, where full-frame sensors and professional lenses provide commercial-level image quality.

The D750 simply has everything an enthusiast photographer will need to bring home incredibly good images, without jumping through hoops. With the D750, digital photography has reached a level of maturity that will allow you to use your camera for a long time. The image quality is so high, the dynamic range so deep, the autofocus so exact, the 6.5 frames-per-second shooting rate so fast, and the file size so perfect that it may be years before you need another Nikon!

The high resolution of the 24.3-megapixel (MP) sensor, for superb still images and clean, broadcast-quality video, make the D750 one of the world's best HD-SLR cameras. In my opinion, the image is what counts, and the Nikon D750 can deliver some of the highest-quality images out there. It has a robust camera body designed to last. With this camera we can return to the days when we seldom bought a new camera body and instead put our money into new Nikkor FX lenses. Wouldn't you like to have some new lenses?

Sure, new Nikon cameras will come out, and, like me, you'll be attracted to them. However, with the D750 you won't have to buy a new camera unless you really want to. It will last for many years!

Now, let's learn how to configure and use your new D750.

Learning about the Nikon D750

The difficulty in writing a book about a powerful camera like the Nikon D750 is balancing it for multiple types of users and their various levels of knowledge and interest. With too much technical detail, the book will read like a user's manual. With too little technical detail, advanced users will get no benefit from the book.

Some users of the Nikon D750 HD-SLR camera have come over from the world of fully automated point-and-shoot cameras. On the other hand, many photographers have upgraded to the D750 from cameras like the Nikon D3300, D5500, and D7100. Then, there are professionals who bought a D750 to have a backup for their pro-level cameras, like the D700, D800, D800E, D810 D3, D3S, D3X, and D4S. Others have come over from the film world, drawn by the siren call of lower cost, immediate image use, and extremely high quality.

In *Mastering the Nikon D750* I've tried my best to balance the needs of new and experienced users. I remember my first DSLR and my confusion about how to configure the camera compared to my old film SLR: What's all this histogram, white balance, and color space stuff?

The bottom line is that the Nikon D750 is a rather complex camera, and it requires a careful study of resources like this book to really get a grasp on the large range of features and functions. According to Nikon, it's an "advanced" camera, with features not found in lesser "consumer" models. It's designed for people who really love photography and have a passion for image making that far exceeds just taking some nice pictures at a family event.

The D750 has most of the features found in cameras like the D810 and D4S, which are cameras that professionals use to make a living. In fact, the Nikon D750 is becoming the camera of choice for many pros who want a backup camera or a smaller, lighter camera for pleasure use and activities like hiking, skydiving, and underwater adventures. The camera body is robust enough—with its combination metal magnesium-alloy and carbon fiber reinforced thermoplastic frame—to take abuse and survive.

Following the publication of my books *Mastering the Nikon D7200* and *Mastering the Nikon D810,* I compared the D7200, D810, and D750 side by side. I'm here to tell you that the Nikon D750 has nearly all the functions found in the D810 and extends the feature set of the D7200.

The D750 also has a full range of functions that allow you to shoot images and post-process them in the camera instead of on your computer. If you don't like computers but want to take digital photographs and videos, the Nikon D750 is the camera for you!

Additionally, the Nikon D750 has a very powerful video subsystem, allowing you to record H.264/MPEG-4 Advanced Video Coding (AVC) compressed HD (720p) or Full HD (1080p) video movies to the camera's memory cards, or stream overlay-free, uncompressed 8-bit 4:2:2 video to an external video recorder through its HDMI port.

I could rave for hours about all the cool features in the D750. In fact, I do go on raving about this camera for the next 13 chapters. I hope you can sense my enthusiasm for this impressive new imaging machine as you read this book. There are few cameras in the world with this level of capability, and you own one!

First Use of the Camera

Surprisingly, quite a few brand-new DSLR users are buying a Nikon D750 instead of a lower-cost, entry-level model. Even new users appreciate the robust high quality of the camera.

The upcoming sections and chapters are best read with your camera in hand, ready for configuration. There are literally hundreds of things to configure on this advanced DSLR. In this chapter, I'll give new D750 users a place to start. Later, as you progress through this book, we'll look at all the buttons, switches, dials, and menu settings in detail. That will allow you to fully master the operation of your Nikon D750.

Each menu in the camera has its own chapter or section. Plus there is additional information on how to put it all together in chapters like **Metering, Exposure Modes, and Histogram; White Balance; Autofocus, AF-Area, and Release Modes; Live View Photography;** and **Speedlight Flash**. Since the D750 has a movie mode, we'll cover video capture in a separate chapter, **Movie Live View**.

First-Time HD-SLR Users

Although the D750 is an advanced enthusiasts' camera, many brand-new HD-SLR users have purchased a D750 as their first DSLR-type camera. New users may not know how to attach and remove a lens or change the battery, and they may need help with inserting and formatting memory cards.

The majority of this book's readers, however, already know how to perform these tasks. I do not want to ask a more experienced DSLR user to read over the basics of DSLR use, so I've created a document called **Initial Hardware Considerations** that you can download from either of these websites:

http://www.nikonians.org/NikonD750

http://www.rockynook.com/NikonD750

There are also several other articles of interest to new Nikon D750 users on these webpages.

Now, let's start with the initial configuration of a brand-new Nikon D750. There are five specific steps you must complete when you first turn on the camera.

Five Steps for First-Time Camera Configuration

This section is devoted to first-time configuration of the camera. There are certain settings that must be set up immediately (covered in this section) and others that should be configured before you use the camera extensively (covered in a later section [page 12], **Camera Functions for Initial Configuration**).

I won't go into detail on all possible settings in this chapter. Those details are reserved for the individual chapters that cover the various menus and functions. Instead, I'll walk you through five steps for first-time configuration of the camera. Then, in the **Camera Functions for Initial Configuration** section, I'll refer you to the page numbers that provide the screens and menus for each function that should be configured *before* you use your camera for the first time. The later chapters will cover virtually all camera settings.

Figure 1.1A – Clock-not-set symbol

When you first power on your camera it may display a screen informing you that the clock has been reset, and a small version of the clock-not-set symbol (seen in figure 1.1A) may be flashing on the rear Information display (Monitor). This happens when the camera's internal

time clock has not been set. Therefore, if your camera's clock has not been previously set and you see a clock reset message, or a clock-not-set symbol is flashing on the Information display, be sure to set the clock before using the camera. We will review the procedure for setting the clock during the third step of our five-step initial setup.

Let's examine how to configure a new camera. You'll see the following five screens when you first turn the camera on, and they must be set up immediately.

Setting the Language: Step 1

The D750 is multilingual and multinational. As partially shown in figure 1.1B, the menus can be displayed in one of 36 languages. Most likely the camera will already be configured to the language spoken in your area since various world distributors have the camera somewhat preconfigured.

Figure 1.1B – Setup Menu Language screen

Here are the steps to select your language:

1. Refer to figure 1.1B for the Language list the camera presents on startup.
2. Use the circular Multi selector on the back of the camera—with arrows pointing left, right, up, and down—to scroll up or down until your language is highlighted.
3. Press the OK button in the center of the Multi selector to select your language.

The camera will now switch to the second screen in the setup series, the Time zone screen.

Setting the Time Zone: Step 2

This is an easy screen to use as long as you can recognize the area of the world in which you live. Use the map shown in figure 1.1C to find your area, then select it.

Figure 1.1C – Setup Menu Time zone screen

Here are the steps to select the correct Time zone for your location:

1. Refer to figure 1.1C for the Time zone screen. You'll see yellow arrows pointing to the left and right on either side of the small black and gray world map.
2. With the Multi selector, scroll to the left or right until your world location is highlighted in yellow. You will see either a vertical yellow strip or a tiny yellow outline with a red dot. At the bottom of the screen you will see the currently selected Time zone. Mine is set to New York, Toronto, Lima (UTC-5), as shown in figure 1.1C.
3. Press the OK button to lock in your Time zone.

The camera will now present you with the next screen in the series, the Date and time screen.

Setting the Date and Time: Step 3

This screen allows you to enter the current date and time. It is in year, month, day (Y, M, D) and hour, minute, second (H, M, S) format.

Here are the steps to set the Date and time:

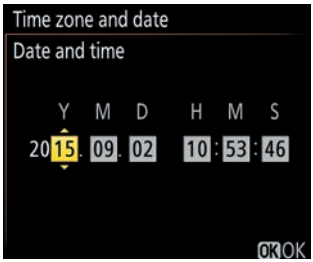

Figure 1.1D – Setup Menu Date and time screen

1. Refer to figure 1.1D for the Date and time screen.
2. Use the Multi selector to scroll to the left or right and select the various date and time sections. Scroll up or down to set the values for each one. The time values use a 24-hour clock, or military time. Use the 12- to 24-Hour Time Conversion Chart on page 325 to convert the 12-hour time you are probably using (for example, 3:00 p.m. is 15:00:00).
3. Press the OK button when you have entered the Date and time.

Next, the camera will switch to the Date format screen with settings for your area of the world.

Setting the Date Format: Step 4

The English-speaking world uses various date formats. The Nikon D750 allows you to choose from the most common ones. There are three date formats you can select (figure 1.3):

- Y/M/D – Year/Month/Day (2013/12/31)
- M/D/Y – Month/Day/Year (12/31/2013)
- D/M/Y – Day/Month/Year (31/12/2013)

U.S. residents usually select the M/D/Y format. However, you may prefer a different format.

Here are the steps to select the Date format you like best:

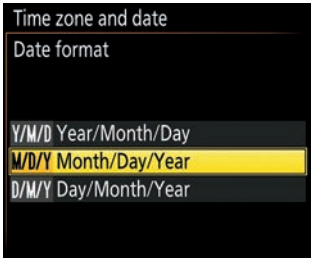

Figure 1.1E – Setup Menu Date format screen

1. Refer to figure 1.1E for the Date format screen.
2. Using the Multi selector, scroll up or down to the position of the date format you prefer. M/D/Y is selected in figure 1.1E.
3. Press the OK button to select the format.

When you have selected a Date format, the camera will switch to the Daylight saving time screen.

Setting Daylight Saving Time: Step 5

Many areas of the United States observe daylight saving time. In the springtime, most U.S. residents set their clocks forward by one hour on a specified day each year. Then in the fall they set their clocks back, leading to the clever saying, "spring forward and fall back."

You can use the Daylight saving time setting to adjust the time on your D750's clock forward or back by one hour every six months, according to whether daylight saving time is currently in effect in your area.

To choose an initial Daylight saving time setting, follow these steps:

1. Refer to figure 1.1F for the Daylight saving time screen.
2. There are only two selections: On or Off. The default setting is Off. If daylight saving time is in effect in your area (spring and summer in most areas of the United States), select On. When daylight saving time ends, you will need to change this setting to Off (via the Setup Menu) to adjust the clock back by one hour.
3. Press the OK button to select your choice.

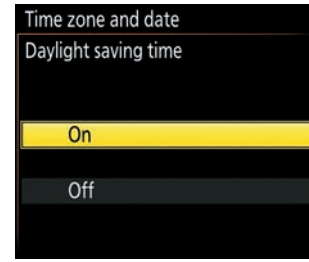

Figure 1.1F – Setup Menu Daylight saving time screen

Settings Recommendation: If you live in an area that observes daylight saving time, it's a good idea to adjust this setting whenever daylight saving time begins and ends. When you set the time forward or back on your wristwatch and clocks, you will need to adjust it on your camera as well. If you don't, your images will have metadata reflecting a time that is off by one hour for half the year. This setting allows you to adjust the camera's clock quickly by simply selecting On or Off.

This completes the initial camera setup, and you are now ready to start configuring other parts of the camera in whatever order you find convenient. You'll use the menu system, as described in the next section, to access individual configuration screens. Each configuration step described in this book is accompanied by all the screen graphics you'll need and step-by-step instructions on configuration choices.

Let's look at an overview of the menu system.

Accessing the Camera Menus

To access the various configurable menus in the D750, you'll use the MENU button and the ***i*** button on the back of the camera (figure 1.2A). Please remember the locations of these two buttons since they will be mentioned often in this book.

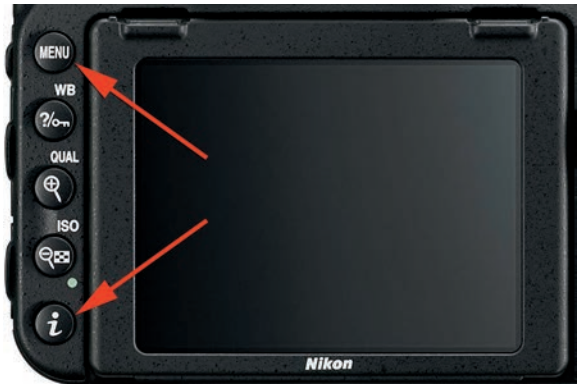

Figure 1.2A – Press the MENU button to open the main camera menus and the ***i*** button to open the shortcut menus

There are seven primary main menu systems in the camera, which work for both Viewfinder photography and Live view photography and videos. They are listed as follows:

- Playback Menu
- Photo Shooting Menu
- Movie shooting Menu
- Custom Setting Menu
- Setup Menu
- Retouch Menu
- My Menu or Recent Settings

Additionally, there are three ***i*** button shortcut menus available for these types of photography and movies (along with the normal main menus listed previously):

- Viewfinder photography
- Live view photography
- Movie live view

This book has a chapter devoted to each of the main menus and fully discusses the ***i*** button shortcut menus in appropriate places.

Let's take a brief look at the opening screens of the seven main menus, shown in figure 1.2B, images 1–7. You get to these seven menus by pressing the MENU button and scrolling up or down with the Multi selector. A selector bar with tiny icons will appear on the left side of the Monitor when you press the MENU button. You can see the selector bar at the left of each menu in figure 1.2B, images 1–7.

Figure 1.2B – Seven primary camera menus

As you scroll up or down in the selector bar, you'll see each menu appear on the Monitor, with its icon highlighted in yellow on the left side of the screen, and the menu on the right. The name of the menu you are currently using will be displayed at the top of the screen.

Additionally, there are three ***i*** button shortcut menus. Figure 1.2B, image 8 displays an example of the ***i*** button shortcut menu you will see when you are using Viewfinder photography. The screen shown in figure 1.2B, image 9, displays the ***i*** button menu shortcut screen used in the two Live view modes. The one actually shown is for Live view photography mode. The one for Movie live view mode (not shown) is very similar, with a few different menu choices.

Again, we will discuss each of these menus and their functions and settings in great detail as we go through this book.

Note: My Menu (figure 1.2B, image 7) can be toggled with an alternate menu called Recent Settings by using the Choose tab setting at the bottom of My Menu. These two menus—My Menu and Recent Settings—can't be active at the same time so only one of them is shown in figure 1.2B (image 7). My Menu is much more functional for most people. The chapter titled **My Menu and Recent Settings** covers both of these options in detail so you can choose which one you want to appear most of the time on your camera. My Menu allows you to add the most-used menu items from any of the other menus to your own personal menu, and Recent Settings shows you the last 20 menu items you've changed.

Using the Camera's Help System

The D750 is complex enough that it needs a help system. Fortunately, Nikon provides one. Whenever you have a function selected in one of the menus, you can press and hold the WB/help/protect button and a help screen will appear for that function.

c Timers/AE lock
1
c1 Shutter-release button AE-L OFF
c2 Standby timer 6s
c3 Self-timer --
c4 Monitor off delay --
c5 Remote on duration (ML-L3) 1m
d1 Beep --
d2 Continuous low-speed 3
d3 Max. continuous release 100
MENU
WB
QUAL
ISO
2
c3 Self-timer
3
Choose how long the camera waits before releasing the shutter after the shutter-release button is pressed in self-timer mode, the number of shots that are taken, and the interval between the shots.

Figure 1.3 – Using the Help button to understand functions

Use the following steps to access the help system:

1. Highlight any function in any of the menus (figure 1.3, image 1).
2. Press the Help/protect (WB) button and hold it (figure 1.3, image 2).
3. A help screen will open that shows a brief description of what the function does (figure 1.3, image 3).

When you are trying to use the help system in the Custom Setting Menu, be sure that you are *not* looking at the heading menus; you should, instead, be inside the menu. For example, in figure 1.3, image 1, holding the help button won't work for the heading menu: c Timers/AE lock. You need to select one of the functions below the name of the menu, such as: c3 Self-timer or d1 Beep.

Check out the useful help screens. They are excellent for when you have forgotten exactly what a function does and could use a quick reminder. They are available for any of the menus.

Camera Functions for Initial Configuration

The following is a list of functions that you may want to configure before you take many pictures. These set up the basic parameters for camera usage. Each function is covered in great detail on the page number shown, so I did not repeat the information in this chapter. Please turn to the indicated page and fully configure the function, then return here and move on to the next function. When you are done, your camera will be ready for use.

Setup Menu

- Format memory card: Page 307
- Auto image rotation: Page 328
- Image comment: Page 331
- Copyright information: Page 332
- Wi-Fi: Page 355

Photo Shooting Menu

- Role played by card in Slot 2: Page 63
- Image quality: Page 65
- Image size: Page 73
- JPEG compression: Page 79
- NEF (RAW) recording: Page 81
- White balance: Page 85
- Set Picture Control: Page 88
- Active D-Lighting: Page 108
- Vignette control: Page 115
- Long exposure NR: Page 118
- High ISO NR: Page 121
- ISO sensitivity settings: Page 123

Movie Shooting Menu

- Destination: Page 149
- Frame size/frame rate: Page 149
- Movie quality: Page 151
- White balance: Page 158
- Set Picture Control: Page 160
- High ISO NR: Page 171
- Movie ISO sensitivity settings: Page 171

Playback Menu

- Playback folder: Page 25
- Playback display options: Page 29
- Image review: Page 42
- Rotate tall: Page 44

Custom Setting Menu

- a1 AF-C priority selection: Page 182
- a2 AF-S priority selection: Page 184
- a3 Focus tracking with lock-on: Page 186
- a8 Store points by orientation: Page 196
- c4 Monitor off delay: Page 215
- d1 Beep: Page 222
- d6 File number sequence: Page 229
- d7 Viewfinder grid display: Page 230
- e1 Flash sync speed: Page 239
- f2 Assign Fn button: Page 271
- f3 Assign preview button: Page 271
- f4 Assign AE-L/AF-L button: Page 271

Of course, there are hundreds more functions to configure, and you may find one function more important than another; however, these are the functions that you ought to at least give a once-over before you use the camera extensively.

Personal Camera Settings Recommendations

All through the book I offer my personal recommendations for settings and how to use them. Look for the **Settings Recommendation** paragraph at the end of most sections. These suggestions are based on my own personal shooting style and experience with Nikon cameras in various types of shooting situations. You may eventually decide to configure things differently, according to your own needs and style. However, these recommendations are good starting points while you become familiar with your camera.

Things to Know When Reading This Book

Here are a few things that you'll need to remember as you read this book. There are a lot of buttons and controls on the camera body. I have provided a **Camera Body Reference** section in the front of the book and a downloadable document titled **Camera Control Reference** that you can download from the website for this book. See the links to the downloadable resources in the next section.

What's the difference between these two resources? The **Camera Body Reference** is a place to go when you want to locate a control, including covers and doors, and the **Camera Control Reference** provides a deeper discussion of each button, dial, and switch on the camera.

I use Nikon-assigned names for the controls on the camera, as found in the Nikon D750 User's Manual. For instance, I may say something like "press the Playback zoom out/thumbnails (ISO) button" to show you how to execute some function, and you'll need to know where this button is located. Use the **Camera Body Reference** in the front of the book to memorize the locations of the camera controls.

I have provided page number references to the Nikon D750 User's Manual at the beginning of most sections in case you want to refer to it for additional information about the camera settings. Using the Nikon manual is *entirely optional* and is not required to fully learn how to use your camera with this book. If you have no interest in using the Nikon manual, simply ignore the page number references.

Downloadable Resources Website

To keep this book small enough to carry as a reference in your camera bag, I have provided some less-used information in downloadable documents on these websites:
http://www.nikonians.org/NikonD750
http://www.rockynook.com/NikonD750

I will refer to these documents throughout the book when they apply to the material being discussed.

Author's Conclusion

Keep this book in your camera bag for reference, or acquire an electronic copy for use on your smart phone or tablet. You can acquire electronic copies of this book directly from the publisher as a bundle that includes three ebook formats (PDF, ePub, and Mobi). Use the following link to find the book:

http://bit.ly/1NaIrYu

If you use a Kindle reader, you can download a digital copy from Amazon.com at this link:

http://amzn.to/1pPTHyU

Let's get started on the camera's menu systems. There are a lot of individual functions and many settings within these functions. We will consider each of them so that you can use your camera to the fullest extent of its potential and improve your photography in the process.

The first menu we will consider is the Playback Menu, which is also the first menu listed by the camera. We will take each menu in order from that point forward.

Again, it is best if you have your camera in hand so that you can make adjustments and experiment with each setting as you go. Then, after you have read through the book, you will have discovered the functions that are most important to you, where they are located, and how to adjust them.

Are you ready? Let's master your new camera!

Online Resources

You will find a series of downloadable resources for this book, including descriptions of additional features and functions of your D750 camera and a list of errata corrections at the following website:

www.rockynook.com/NikonD750